

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 61, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

In another alternative embodiment, known prion sequences or other SCHAG amino acid sequences are modified, *e.g.*, by addition, deletion, or substitution of individual amino acids; or by repeating or deleting motifs known or suspected of influencing fibril-forming propensity. To form novel prion sequences, modifications to increase the number of polar residues (glutamine, asparagine, ~~serine~~, serine, tyrosine) are specifically contemplated, with modifications that increase glutamine and asparagine content being highly preferred. [See Depace *et al.*, *Cell*, 93:1241-1252 (1998), incorporated herein by reference.] In a preferred embodiment, the alterations are effected by site directed mutagenesis or *de novo* synthesis of encoding polynucleotides, followed by expression of the encoding polynucleotides.